

SCIENCE TIMES

Up to date information and issues related to Science, Technology and the Environment

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

State of the World Report: China and India Hold the Balance

Research and Inquiry

While a change in temperature of 1 degree Celsius may not have a direct impact on your life, it could have a devastating effect on the Inuit culture. Those living in the north are seeing the effects of global warming long before the rest of us do. Based on research, what threats do the Inuit face if the Earth continues to get warmer? (All levels)

http://www.ciel.org/Climate/ICC_Petition_7Dec05.html

<http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com>

What technologies are either in use or under development that take advantage of renewable resources? Make a pamphlet marketing these technologies. (MJS, SS)

The Clif Bar company encourages its workers to seek more environmentally friendly ways of getting to the office. They offer cash and other incentives in their program called the “Cool Commute”. Develop and present one incentive that you could offer to businesses to reduce waste and emissions. (MJS/SS)

http://www.greencarcongress.com/2006/12/clif_bar_launch.html

<http://www.clifbar.com/environment>

Discussion and Debate

Discussion questions: (MJS, SS)

If you were running a meeting between the international heads of state to plan for the future growth of China and India, what items might you put on your agenda?

What are the top 5 concerns you might have if economic growth takes place in China and India at the rate it has in North America?

Debate:

If China and India do in fact industrialize to the degree that Europe, US and Canada have, the planet will not survive. Shouldn't we take steps to prevent

this from happening? (All levels)

Take Action

One of the ways that the Canadian Government is encouraging Canadians to take an active part helping the planet is through its initiative entitled “The One Tonne Challenge”. Use their emissions calculator to plan ways to reduce your family's emissions. (Do this at home so parents can provide missing information.) (All levels)

<http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/onetonne/calculator/english/>

Another way to measure your effect on the planet is to calculate your ecological footprint (to be completed at home). (All levels)

<http://www.myfootprint.org/>

Build a sustainable city using renewable resources and decreasing waste and pollution. Include a map, legend and pamphlet that describes each of the factors you have taken into consideration for your design. (All levels)

<http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/welcome.shtml>

Related Links

China's growing economy (CBC)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/china/>

Over 1 million rural Chinese along the Yangtze have been displaced by the construction of the hydroelectric Three Gorges Dam. Do you think this is representative of the economic growth we can expect from China?

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-05/20/content_595995.htm

This report looks at the implications for the China's development.

http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/china_one_lifeboat.pdf

United Nations Environment Programme

<http://www.unep.org/>

